

-Remarks-

The Objection to Applicants' Claim of Priority.

The Examiner has stated that Applicants' claim to the benefit of International Application Number PCT/IB00/00789 (the '789 application) is improper since the instant application was not co-pending with the '789 application. Applicants hereby withdraw the claim to the benefit of international Application No. PCT/IB00/00789 since the '789 application was filed after the filing date of the instant application. Applicants have amended the specification above to reflect Applicants' claim to the benefit of Great Britain Patent Application Serial No. 9913932.1, filed June 15, 1999.

The Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections.

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 and 30 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 - 7 and 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,032 (the '032 patent), which was filed February 20, 2001 as a continuation of an application filed on February 9, 2001. Accordingly, US Patent No. 6,525,032 will expire on February 9, 2021. Applicants have submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer disclaiming the terminal portion of the instant application which extends beyond the expiration date of the '032 patent. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 - 18 and 30 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

B. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 and 30 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 - 7 and 10 of copending Application 09/874,007, which was filed June 5, 2001

Because this is a provisional-type double patenting rejection, applicants request that the rejection be held in abeyance pending allowance of subject matter in the relevant patent application.

-Conclusion-

Applicants, having responded to all points and concerns raised by the Examiner, believe this application to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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